SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK **A5290**

		7		6		1	9	
			4			8	2	
				8	7			3
								2
9		3	1	5	4		6	
			9		2		4	
6	5	4					7	
3	7	1					8	
								1

TRICKY **B5290**

	7	8						
	2		1			6	7	
					6			5
	4	7						
2		3				8		
			9	4	5			
1			2	3				6
		5			8		9	
	6				7			

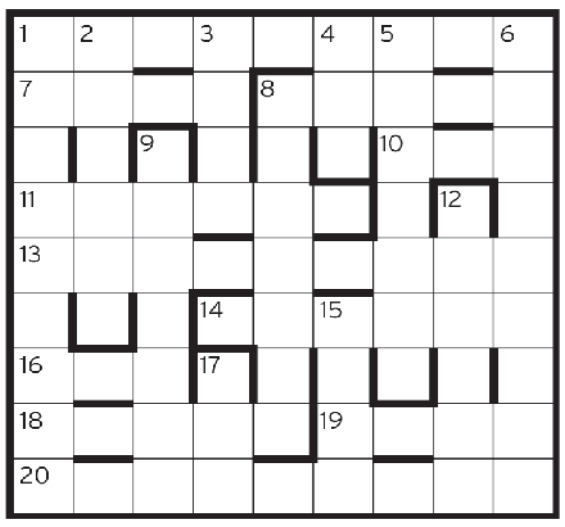
To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Created by Peter Ritmeester (C) PZZL.com

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

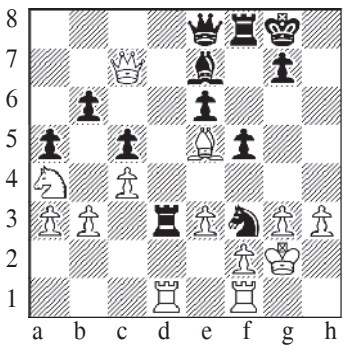
1 Pain or misery (9)
7 Gaming stake (4)
8 _ Starr, Beatles drummer (5)
10 Girl's name (3)
11 Scarcity (6)
13 Team sport played in swimming pools (5,4)
14 Car fuel (6)
16 Clamour (3)
18 Crush to powder (5)
19 Capital of Italy (4)
20 Other than (6,3)



DOWN

1 Golf club (4,5)
2 Open (6)
3 Terror (4)
4 _ de Janeiro, Brazilian city (3)
5 Briefly (2,1,4)
6 Venetian boatman (9)
8 Unoriginal film or book, for example (7)
9 Devilish (7)
12 Film special effect, informally (4,2)
15 Sharp-tasting (4)
17 _ Foot In The Grave, sitcom (3)

CHESS



BLACK HAS A CRUSHER

HINT: THREATEN CHECKMATE.

Solution: 1. ... Qa8! (threatens 2. ... Nh4ch! (double check) 3. Kh2 Qg2 mate, as well as 2. ... Nxe5ch) [Dimitrov-Hou '14].

TARGET

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word.
No plurals or verb forms ending in "s".

TODAY'S TARGET

Good 13;

Very good 19;

Excellent 25 (or more).

Solution monday.

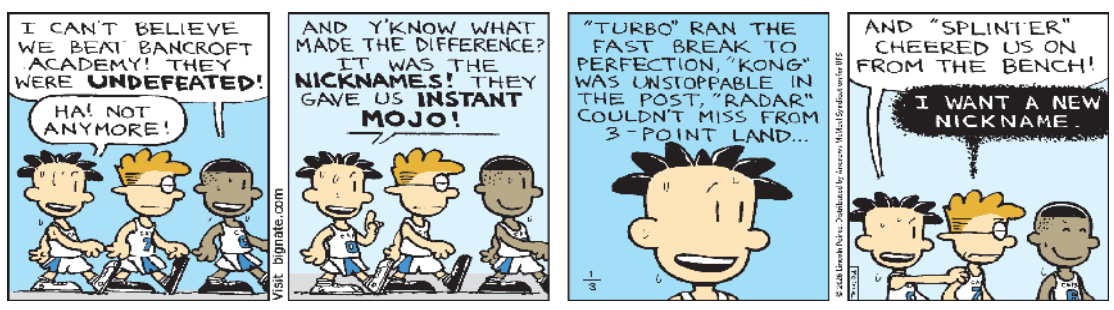
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

OFFHANDED

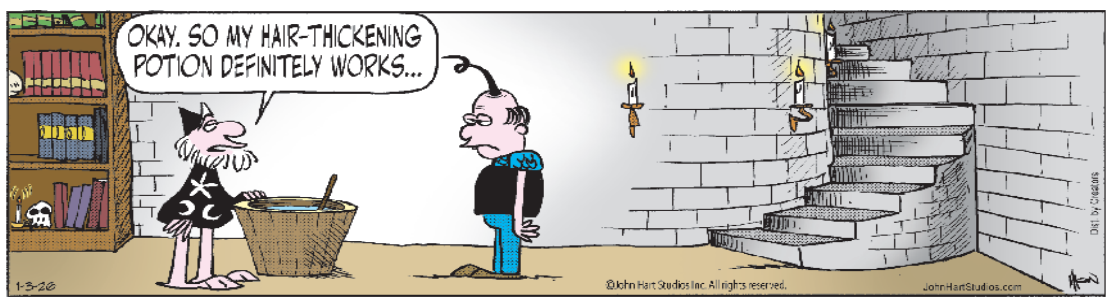
anode dado daff dead deaf dean doff doffed done fade faded fend fond hade haded hand handed head hoed honed node offend offhand OFFHANDED

THE METRO FUNNIES

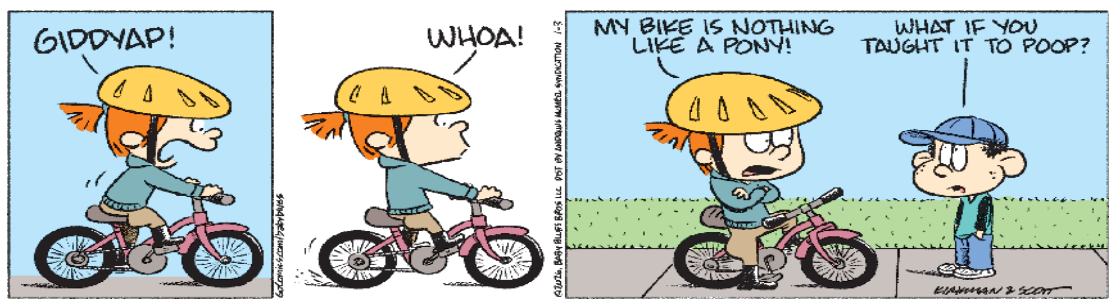
BIG NATE | BY LINCOLN PEIRCE


I CAN'T BELIEVE WE BEAT BANCROFT ACADEMY! THEY WERE UNDEFEATED!
HA! NOT ANYMORE!
AND Y'KNOW WHAT MADE THE DIFFERENCE? IT WAS THE NICKNAMES! THEY GAVE US INSTANT MOJO!
"TURBO" RAN THE FAST BREAK TO PERFECTION, "KONG" WAS UNSTOPPABLE IN THE POST, "RADAR" COULDN'T MISS FROM 3-POINT LAND...
AND "SPLINTER" CHEERED US ON FROM THE BENCH!
I WANT A NEW NICKNAME.
Visit: bignate.com

THE WIZARD OF ID | BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART



BABY BLUES



WEATHER

Sunset & Sunrise

	Hyderabad	Islamabad	Karachi	Lahore	Peshawar	Quetta
Sunset	05:50pm	05:14pm	05:55pm	05:13pm	05:19pm	05:49pm
Sunrise	07:12am	07:10am	07:16am	07:01am	07:17am	07:24am

Three Day Forecast

	Today				Tomorrow				Day After		
	Min	Max	Outlook	Humidity%	Min	Max	Outlook		Min	Max	Outlook
Faisalabad	7	17	Sunny	84	7	17	Sunny		7	16	Partly Cloudy
Hyderabad	9	24	Sunny	58	10	25	Sunny		11	24	Sunny
Islamabad	7	18	Mostly Sunny	68	7	17	Partly Cloudy		6	17	Mostly Sunny
Lahore	6	16	Partly Cloudy	82	6	16	Sunny		7	15	Partly Cloudy
Multan	7	19	Sunny	84	8	18	Sunny		7	17	Partly Cloudy
Peshawar	6	18	Partly Cloudy	65	5	17	Mostly Sunny		5	18	Mostly Sunny
Quetta	0	13	Sunny	44	1	12	Mostly Sunny		-2	10	Sunny

Temperature estimates are internationally sourced and may differ from local estimates.

HELP

EMERGENCIES

Police Help	15, 99212652-53, 99212634
CPLC	1102, 35662222
Fire Brigade	16, 99215007, 99215008.
Bomb Disposal	99212674
KE Complaints	118
Telephone complaints	1218
Railway Inquiry	99213565-66
PCAA Flight Inquiry	99071284, 99071259
	99071265, 114

HOSPITALS

Abbasi Shaheed	99260400-09
Civil Hospital	99215740, 9215960
Jinnah Hospital	99201300-99201301
NICVD	99201271-6
Aga Khan Hospital	34930051
Medicare Hospital	021-111-001-786
Kharadar Gen Hospital	32510113-16
Indus Hospital	35112709
Tabba	36811841, 111844844
Ziauddin Hospital	35862937-9, 36648237-9
Kiran Cancer Hospital	99261601-04
Liaquat National	111-456-456, 34939615
Memon Medical	34691147 — 54
A.O. Clinic	36685564, 3668550-64
Baqai Hospital	36618396, 36618398
Holy Family Hospital	32258994, 32258991
Patel Hospital	111174174
South City Hospital	35374072
Kidney Centre Institute	35661000-10
Karwan-e-Hayat	021-111534111
Usman Memorial	021-36310311-15

AMBULANCE

Edhi	115, 32310066, 32310077
Chhipa	1020
SIEHS/Rescue	1122
St.John	32250500, 32250600
Red Crescent	35306227, 35306228

BLOOD BANK

Fatmid	32225284, 32258656
Husaini	32238405-08
PWA (Civil)	99215740, 99215959

WORD GAME

By Kathleen Saxe

▼ TODAY'S WORD
GREEDILY

(GREEDILY: GREED-ih-lee: Selfishly; with a desire for wealth and possessions.)

Average mark 40 words
Time limit 60 minutes

Can you find 57 or more words in GREEDILY?

The list will be published tomorrow.

SOLUTIONS

▼ YESTERDAY'S WORD — VACUOUSNESS

vacuous	cuss	scone
vane	usance	season
vase	uvea	sensuous
venous	oases	sone
acne	ocean	souse
cane	once	suave
canoe	onus	nauseous
case	ounce	nave
cause	oven	ness
cave	sane	nevus
census	sans	noes
cone	sauce	nova
cove	save	
coven	scan	

RULES OF THE GAME:

1. Words must be of four or more letters.
2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" or "dies," are not allowed.
3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. For example, if "bake" is used, "baked" or "bakes" are not allowed, but "bake" and "baking" are admissible.
4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed.

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS

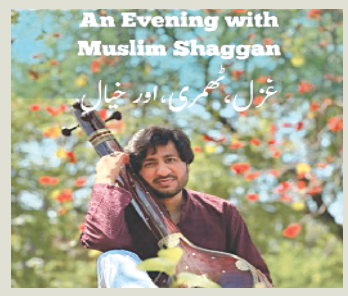
1 Vegetable
7 Settee
9 Aspects
10 Dear
12 Cap
13 Council
14 Cot
15 Hero
17 Escaped
19 Social
20 Parallels.

DOWN

1 Viaducts
2 Ease
3 Gap
4 Technical
5 Attach
6 Legal
8 Explodes
11 Russia
13 Cocoa
16 Real
18 Pie.

METRO EVENTS

MUSIC



A musical night is organised at T2F at 7pm.

FESTIVALS

A kids' festival, featuring jewellery, arts & craft, STEM activities, games, canvas paintings and much more, is organised at Maryam's Art, PECHS, Block 2, from 4pm to 8pm.

'The Game Table', an interactive gaming experience, at Habitt City, at 3pm.

'Vibes of the New Year', a festival featuring shopping, food & fun-filled activities, is held at Habitt City, Tipu Sultan Road, from 5pm to 11pm. Entry is free.

SESSION

A session on 'Research-Centric Knowledge & Ideas: Capstone Viva' is held at Iqra University, Gulshan Campus, at 12 noon.

MUSHAIRA

'Biyad-i-Ajmal Siraj', a mushaira, is held at Karachi Expo Centre, Hall No.1, at 6pm.

HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

ARIES | March 21-April 19

*** Today your challenge is whether to meet the demands of home and family versus the demands of your reputation in the community and your career. This particular Full Moon suggests that you cannot ignore your public reputation. Tough one. Tonight: Privacy.

TAURUS | April 20-May 20

**** Pay attention to everything you say and do today because this is an accident-prone day due to the Full Moon energy. An accident doesn't have to happen because of the Full Moon. But if you're emotionally hyped or upset, this could distract you and create an accident. Capisce? Tonight: Make plans.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

*** Certain financial matters might come to a head today because of the Full Moon energy. This means you will clearly see what is doable in terms of how much money you have and what is not doable. This is good to know. Now you can plan your next move. Tonight: Frugality.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

**** Today the first Full Moon in your sign this year is taking place. (The next Full Moon in CANCER will occur on Dec. 23.) Naturally, this will create tension between you and those who are closest to you. However, it will give you the courage to get out of a situation you don't like. Tonight: You're serious.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

*** Today things are a bit challenging, especially at work, or even with your health or when dealing with a pet, because of the Full Moon energy. However, it is possible to set things in motion this evening that will have a long-term benefit for you. Think about this. Tonight: Solitude.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

**** Your dealings with kids, as well as romantic partners, are challenged today because of the Full Moon energy. Be encouraged by the fact that this is brief. (It's strong for 24 hours and certainly gone after 48 hours.) Choose a fun, relaxing activity as a distraction. Tonight: Get advice.

LIBRA | Sept. 23-Oct. 22

*** Today's Full Moon could create problems with parents and bosses or your home and family. Whatever is happening with family will require your attention. Be the peacemaker. What you do now will benefit your home for a long time in the future. Tonight: Show respect.

SCORPIO | Oct. 23-Nov. 21

**** Pay attention to everything you say and do today because this is a mildly accident-prone day for you. The reason an accident might occur is because you're distracted. (An accident doesn't have to happen just because it's the Full Moon.) Tonight: Study.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

*** Avoid quarrels about money or possessions today. Today is the Full Moon, and it is active in both your Money Houses. Stay positive. Be generous. Without question, your generosity will be returned to you in greater fold in the future. Tonight: Optimism.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

*** Today the Full Moon is taking place opposite your sign, which might trigger tension between you and spouses, partners or close friends. This tension is short-lived, but it's here today. More than others, you can handle challenges that require self-discipline. Demonstrate grace under pressure. Tonight: Cooperate.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

*** Today has its challenges, but they're not insurmountable. You might feel a bit out of sorts or worried and not know why. Or worse yet, worried and you do know why! Later in the day, you'll feel better. You might have good ideas about how to make improvements with home and family. Tonight: Work.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

**** Social outings might drift off course because of today's Full Moon energy. Remind yourself to be patient when dealing with your kids. Likewise, romantic partners must be patient dealing with each other. By evening, things take on a reassuring warm glow. "More chocolate?" Tonight: Play!

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-so-so; 1-Difficult

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Bidding Quiz

By Steve Becker

Look for the silver lining

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A K 10 9 5
♥ 7 2
♦ Q 4 2
♣ 10 7 3

WEST
♠ 7 6 4
♥ 10 8 6 5 3
♦ 5
♣ Q 8 4 2

EAST
♠ Q 8 2
♥ K J 9 4
♦ A 10 9 8 3
♣ 6

SOUTH
♠ J 3
♥ A Q
♦ K J 7 6
♣ A K J 9 5

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Dble	Redble	2 ♥	2 ♠
Pass	3 NT		

Opening lead -- five of hearts.

A true test of declarer play is provided by this deal, where South winds up in three notrump after the auction shown. West leads a heart, and declarer takes East's king with the ace. How should he proceed?

If South starts by taking a spade finesse, East wins and returns a heart, establishing three heart tricks for the defense, to add to the ace of diamonds and the spade already won. Since South at this point has only eight tricks -- four spades, two hearts and two clubs -- he goes down one.

Similarly, if declarer attacks clubs rather than spades at the outset, the outcome will be the same.

However, there is much more to the deal than initially meets the eye, and the answer lies in the bidding.

East's takeout double at his second turn makes it a virtual certainty that he has the ace of diamonds. It then becomes a matter of whether declarer can put this information to good use. And the solution is that South should temporarily ignore both of his long suits in favor of attacking diamonds first!

For this approach to be effective, though, the initial diamond lead must come from dummy. If instead declarer leads a diamond honor from his hand, or a low diamond to dummy's queen, he will meet the same sorry fate described earlier.

To assure the contract, South should cross to dummy with a spade at trick two and return the diamond deuce, placing East in a hopeless position. If he plays low, declarer wins and establishes his clubs to produce nine tricks -- two spades, two hearts, a diamond and four clubs. And if East goes up with the diamond ace instead, declarer again has nine tricks -- two spades, two hearts, three diamonds and two clubs.

Tomorrow: Spectacular but reasonable.

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Quick — A5289

8	4	9	6	3	7	1	5	2
3	6	5	2	1	8	4	9	7
1	2	7	9	5	4	6	3	8
5	8	1	3	4	2	9	7	6
4	3	6	7	8	9	2	1	5
9	7	2	1	6	5	3	8	4
2	5	3	8	9	6	7	4	1
7	9	8	4	2	1	5	6	3
6	1	4	5	7	3	8	2	9

Tricky — B5289

2	3	6	5	8	4	9	1	7
9	1	5	7	2	6	8	4	3
8	4	7	1	3	9	6	2	5
1	6	9	8	5	7	2	3	4
4	7	3	2	9	1	5	6	8
5	8	2	4	6	3	1	7	9
6	9	1	3	4	8	7	5	2
7	2	4	9	1	5	3	8	6
3	5	8	6	7	2	4	9	1